

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town **Hanson**

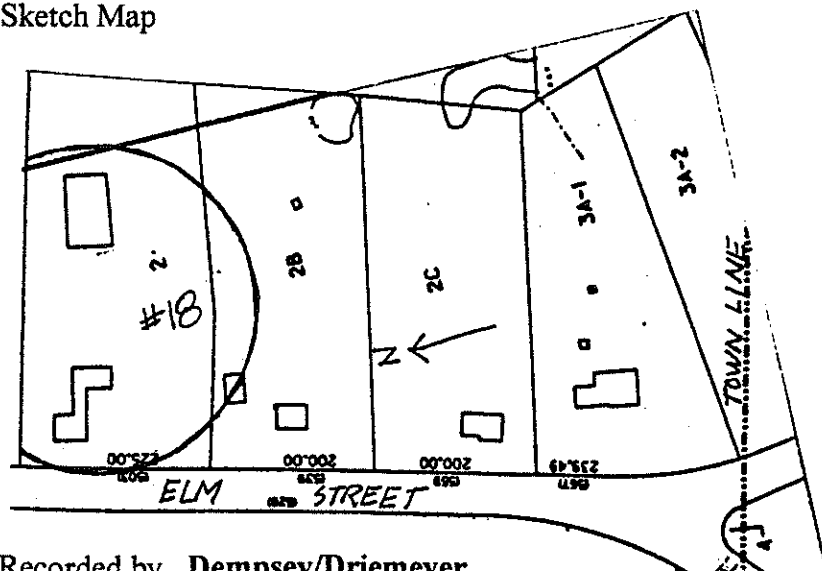
Place

Address **503 Elm Street**Historic Name **Hathaway-Munroe House**Use: Present **residence**Original **residence**Date **before 1830; c. 1800-1805**Source **maps & White's Houses**Style/Form **Federal/cape**Architect **N/A**

Exterior Material:

Foundation **granite**Wall/Trim **shingle**Roof **asphalt**Outbuildings **see description**Major Alterations **see description**Condition **excellent**Moved **no**Photo roll/frame **5/19, 20**

Sketch Map

Recorded by **Demnsey/Driemeyer**



## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Hathaway-Munroe House at 503 Elm Street is a well-preserved, modest, one-and-one-half story Cape in the Federal style. The Cape Cod house was especially popular in Hanson in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This house, its outbuildings and setting are suggestive of and a well-preserved example of Hanson's early nineteenth-century small-scale rural agricultural landscape. The five-bay wide by double-pile deep cape has an uncharacteristically small center chimney stack, suggesting it is not original. This gabled mass is augmented by a two-bay, saltbox wing addition on the left-side elevation and the original one-story gabled rear ell. The rear ell is attached to the large barn that is sited parallel to the house. Characteristic of the Federal style, decorative detailing accents window and door openings and the building's edges. Detailing on the Hathaway-Munroe house includes a wide entablature, thin paneled pilasters and sidelights around the front door; a boxed cornice; and thin corner boards. The large, low-gabled shed barn located at the rear of the lot testifies to the continued use of this property for agricultural purposes, as do the adjacent fields.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The southern end of Elm Street still retains portions of its original rural agricultural landscape with continued sparsely scattered development. The enormous Great Cedar Swamp covered much of the land to the east of Elm Street, precluding the possibility of development in this area of South Hanson. The Hathaway-Munroe House was one of two properties developed across from each other in the early nineteenth-century. Joseph White indicates this house was built by a Hathaway around 1800-1805. Historic maps identify Captain Cyrus Munroe as the house's owner in 1830. He still owned the house twenty-five years later. By the last quarter of the nineteenth century the property belonged to Mrs. S. Dearborn. After the turn-of-the-century the house belonged to another long-term owner, Thaddeus Howard, a tackmaker, who continued to own the house at least into the 1930s.

## REFERENCES

Smith, Plan of Hanson, 1830  
Walling, Map of Hanson, 1856  
Walker, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1879  
Richards, Atlas of Plymouth County, 1903

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Community  
**Hanson**

Property Address  
**503 Elm Street**

Area

Form #  
**18**

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

☒ Individually eligible.

☐ Contributing to a potential district.

☐ Eligible only in a historic district.

☐ Potential historic district.

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by **Dempsey/Driemeyer**.

This property is significant as a well-preserved example of early building patterns in the town of Hanson, in a settlement configuration distinctive to the town and probably the region. Among the best examples of its type in town, it may be individually eligible but should be evaluated for its role in potential districts when its neighbors can be examined more carefully. The property meets criteria A and C at the local level and retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.